

16, and US Marine Corps Reservists David Orsi of Engine 6 and Davin Ernsberger of Engine 9, are preparing for deployment in the near future.

EMT-I Graduates

Twelve graduates of the most recent six month EMT-I Class passed the National Registry Exam on their first try. This is an outstanding first time pass rate of 92% compared to the national average of 40%. All twelve are in the preceptor training and assessment program now and should be released by the Medical Director soon.



Congratulations to Recruit Classes 343 and 344 who ran the eight miles from the TA to the Washington Monument in 1 hour and 36 minutes on May 22. Recruit Class 343 graduated on May 26 and Class 344 completed their training July 7.

Public Letters of Commendation and Appreciation

Members of the community write to Fire/EMS Chief Thompson often with thanks and praise for Fire/EMS personnel. The following individuals and units were recognized during April 2006. Thank you all for your continued commitment and dedication.

April 2006

EMS BFC Rafael Sa'adah, EMSB
Captain William Mutchler, Fire Boat
Lt. Brian David, E-24

Lt. Richard Kowalczyk, T-3
Sergeant Theodore Robinson, E-4
Marine Pilot Charles Clark, Fire Boat
Marine Engineer Rob Wright, Fire Boat
Marine Operator John Covey, Fire Boat
FF Shantel Bennett, PE-16
FF Anthony Blake, Fire Boat
FF Timothy Gross, E-24
FF Brian Ladd, E-24
FF Victor Palmer, E-24
Paramedic Steven Chasin, M-31
Paramedic Jesse Hayes, M-31
Paramedic Chipos Hsia, M-15
Paramedic Mark St. Laurent, E-9
Paramedic Ed Winslow, M-15
EMT Karl Robinson, A-8
EMT Jacqueline Pinnix, M-1
Kathryn Friedman, PIO
Gwen Smith, PIO

DCFEMS 4-1-1

Congratulations to Clothida Onyegbule, Customer Service Office on the birth of her son Daniel on Saturday, June 17 weighing 8lbs and 3 oz.

Death Notices

The department regrets the passing of the following retired members: Retired Firefighter Donald Ness who passed away on Tuesday, May 9, 2006; retired Firefighter Bernard L. Campbell who passed away on June 5, 2006; Retired Firefighter Robert D. Behrens who passed away on June 8, 2006; Retired Lieutenant James M. Silbaugh who passed away on June 16, 2006; Retired Lieutenant Donald F. Rhine who passed away on June 30, 2006, and Retired Lieutenant David R. Miller who passed away on June 30, 2006.



The District of Columbia Fire/EMS Department

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DFC Lawrence Schultz briefs personnel before the July 10 Mass Casualty Drill in the Washington Harbor. Fireboat #2 served as the command boat for this drill that tested the ability of DC Fire/EMS, MPD, the Coast Guard, and City of Alexandria Fire Department to work together in the event of a large-scale boating emergency. In this drill scenario, an explosion and fire on board the Spirit of Washington stranded about 600 people, required three people to be rescued from the water and, triage and treatment of 39 mock patients.

Summer Storms and Celebrations

Fire & EMS personnel had their hands full in late June when several days of torrential rain caused severe flooding throughout the city. At one point during the evening of June 27, every company in the city was on a call. Nearly 100 people were rescued from their stranded vehicles, and firefighters and EMS providers responded to literally hundreds of calls related to the floods.

"FEMS workers did a magnificent job," said Chief Thompson. "It really shows that when the pressure's on, our folks always come through."

Fire/EMS crews, along with EMTs and medics working with the U.S. Park Service, treated more than 300 people during a hot and stormy July 4 holiday. Tens of thousands of people gathered on the National Mall for the traditional Independence Day celebration. With temperatures well above 90 degrees, many people felt the effects of heat exhaustion. At one point, FEMS personnel were treating nearly 100 people simultaneously. Most of the patients in that incident were parade participants who began collapsing at the end of the parade route at 18th Street and Virginia Avenue, NW.

★★★ Adrian H. Thompson,
Fire/EMS Chief
Anthony A. Williams, Mayor

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Please e-mail your births, deaths, retirements, marriages or other personal news to share to gwendolyn.smith@dc.gov. Submissions are requested no later than the third Tuesday of the month at 5 p.m.

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Contact us at (202) 673-3331 or fax (202) 673-3188

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Departmental Awards Ceremony

On June 5, the Fire and EMS held its annual Departmental Awards Ceremony honoring Fire/EMS personnel who performed above and beyond during 2005. Chief Thompson awarded members of the Department with a wide range of Conspicuous Service Awards. Appreciation Awards, Excellence in Pre-Hospital Care, EMS Providers of the Year, Company of the Year, Commendations, and the Department's highest honor - The Bronze Bar. Also recognized were 25 Fire and EMS employees who were deployed to the Gulf Coast for Hurricane Katrina relief last September.



Fire Department preps for flashovers

by Matt McFarland
Pentagram staff writer

On Tuesday, the first 90-degree day Fort Myer has seen, the installation's Fire Department experienced four-digit temperatures. Nine of the installation's firefighter's traveled to the D.C. Fire Department Training Center for "flashover" training in a crate where temperatures reached 1,100 degrees fahrenheit.

A flashover is the sudden engulfment of an entire room in flames and a deadly threat for fire fighters.

They've become a larger problem as the nature of fires has changed.

Items that used to burn in fires were wool and cotton. Now plastics, which burn hotter, are commonplace. Today's fires are three times hotter than they were in the '70s, District Fire Department Capt. Daniel Troxell, who led the class, told the Fort Myer firefighters. Plus, improved insulation contains heat, creating hotter fires.

With the popularity of cell phones, fire fighters know of fires soon and arrive before they may have cooled after venting through a window. These elements increase the risk of "flashovers," which are almost impossible to escape from unless a firefighter is within five feet of an exit. In the 80's 44 firefighters died in flashovers, in the 90s the number almost doubled to 82.

Protective gear is better than ever but it isn't perfect.

"This stuff is great. It's protective. But if it fails — it fails catastrophically," said Troxell as he showed the firefighters a burned fire suit.

Troxell encouraged the firefighters to call mayday if they are in trouble.

"You might take some flack over it, but you'll be alive. There are guys who are dead now because they were afraid to call mayday — because they were embarrassed" said Troxell.



Training with the firefighters, Col. Thomas A. Allmon(right) crawls below the smoke to get a better view of the "flashover."

He warned that predicting flashovers isn't an exact science. Several variables contribute: room size, openings, heat release, insulation, ceiling height and ventilation.

A warning sign is a rollover, essentially thick, dark smoke under pressure that rolls in waves across a ceiling.

Fort Myer is a member of the Capitol Council of Government, a group of area fire departments that team up to share training scenarios. The district's fire department received federal grant to pay instructors overtime to teach the course.

After hearing a lecture and watching videos of flashovers, Fort Myer firefighters came within feet of a flashover.

"The training allows us to show the conditions and still live through it to be able to put it in the back of your mind so you know what is going on," said Fort Myer Fire Capt. Ronnie Willett beforehand.

It took place in a burgundy crate like those used for overseas shipping.

Soon after the firefighters entered the crate, sand-colored smoke leaked from the seams of the crate as a result of the particleboard burning inside. Inside, firefighters crawled on their knees as they experienced an up close look at a flashover.

Garrison Commander Col. Thomas A. Allmon took part. While the commander at Indiantown Gap he trained with the installation's fire department, which burned World War II era buildings for training.

But in Virginia the large amount of paperwork required to burn a building make the training the D.C. Fire Department provides an attractive alternative.

"This is critical training that saves lives. I'm glad we could partner with the D.C. Fire Department," said Allmon.

Fire inspector Tom Hodge agreed. "It's excellent training," he said afterwards, as sweat beads dripped down his face.



Troxell takes a minute to cool down after exiting the crate where temperatures approached 1,100 degrees fahrenheit.



(photos by Adam Skoczylas)

D.C. firefighter Capt. David Troxell teaches a class in flashovers to prepare Fort Myer firefighters for the extreme heat they will face.

Reprinted by Permission.

Helicopter Crash

The patient being carried in this medevac helicopter died when the chopper crashed on approach to the Washington Hospital Center May 30th.

Fire & EMS personnel responded with Battalion 4 and Special Operations for the crash, which occurred on a golf course behind the VA Soldier's Home on North Capitol Street, NW.



The helicopter was delivering a critically ill patient to MedStar from Greater Southeast Community Hospital. Three crewmembers on the helicopter were seriously injured.



On June 27, Chief Thompson and other Fire/EMS personnel celebrated the retirement of Jettie Arnot/TA after 27 years of service to the Fire/EMS Department and 29 years with the DC government. The next day, family and friends continued the celebration with a cruise on the Spirit of Washington.

Ironically, AFCO Douglas Smith and AFCS William FitzGerald were riding along with US Park Police in one of the Eagle helicopters when units were dispatched to the crash. They responded from Bethesda and were the first to arrive at the crash site. Chief FitzGerald used a fire extinguisher to put out a small fire that was burning in the engine compartment, while Chief Smith immediately began assessing patients and providing first aid.

FEMS Medical Director Dr. Amit Wadhwa responded from Grimke and was able to reinsert the patient's airway and restore respiration.

National Transportation Board investigators determined a mechanical failure was to blame for the crash.

MIS

What to do if you get junk mail in your Government inbox:

1) Do not follow any links in the email to terminate future receipt of that solicitation. This trick usually increases the amount of junk mail sent to your account.

2) Forward the email to: Email.Abuse@dc.gov

Thank you everyone who submitted their Departmental-issued cell phone information to MIS. We hope that this will allow us to adjust plans as appropriate, to eliminate excessive overages.

Coming Soon – "Firehouse software." Want a sneak preview? Go to <http://www.firehousesoftware.com/index.html>.



On July 3, DC Fire & EMS unveiled nine brand new ambulances that will go into service as front-line apparatus and strengthen an already strong fleet of vehicles.

DC Firefighters Host Open House in support of Rolling Thunder

More than 150 firefighters from ten different chapters of the Red Knights Motor Cycle Club visited the quarters of E-2 & RS-1 for food, fun and fellowship over Memorial Day Weekend.



The Red Knights International is a motorcycle club for fire service members, their families, and others affiliated with the fire service. The DC Chapter 1 (DC-1) of the Red Knights was established in December 2004 and DC Fire/EMS Firefighter Kevin Connerly, T-12, is their president.

Tanker Crash

DC and Prince George's Country firefighters responded to this dramatic fuel tanker fire June 1st. The crash happened late in the morning rush hour on Northbound Kenilworth Avenue just inside the District.

With mutual aid from Prince George's County, firefighters advanced attack

lines, DC from the South – PG from the North – to extinguish the fire before it could be extended to the fuel tanks. It was



learned that the rig was carrying 7,500 gallons of diesel fuel. DC applied for a second alarm with special alarms for Haz-Mat and foam units.

Police indicated that the tanker truck rear-ended another truck just South of the overpass and then ran into the median, where the tractor burst into flames. The drivers of both trucks were evaluated and initially refused transport, but the driver of the tanker was eventually transported with minor injuries.

Hero's Sendoff for Three Firefighters/Soldiers Serving in Iraq

On May 20, at Engine Co. 6, Fire and EMS members and friends celebrated the service of three members, deployed to Iraq.

Robert Bozarth of Engine 6 was deployed on May



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